

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Ms Maura Sorensen, Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, Derbyshire, S32 1BB

Mob: 07766 629 419 Email: clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Hathersage Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 March 2023

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor; Sara Furness; B Hanley; W Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; James Shuttleworth; Stuart Turner

In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); Kathryne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien (part)

- 234/22 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Pete Rowland and Nick Williams; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; and from the police (a note of crimes recorded over the previous month had been shared).
- 235/22 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 236/22 **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Tim Hill in relation to an expenses claim.
- 237/22 **Public Participation.**
- a) A period of not more than ten minutes for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matter.
- b) An opportunity for the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member in attendance to raise any relevant matter.
- Police: noted** a report from the police on crimes recorded over the previous month - two instances of criminal damage; two instances of assault; one instance of theft. Cllr Bloor referenced a further burglary earlier in the day asking what further measures people could take. The Chair noted individuals should contact the Clerk about CCTV footage.
- DDDC:** DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien referenced a council tax increase of just under 3% and noted DDDC would be drawing on reserves. He confirmed a formal request to DDDC from Freedom Leisure (FL) to cover increased energy costs in the next financial year. Noted this is under consideration and confirmed DDDC had covered additional FL costs for this finance year. Noted FL status as a not-for-profit company. Confirmed that swimmers at the Bakewell pool were being asked for an annual fee of £253.
- Cllr O'Brien also referenced affordable housing and a forthcoming meeting between DDDC Officers and PDNPA planners later in March 'seeking a way forward with provision of affordable housing in Hathersage'. Cllr O'Brien also referenced Eyam PC concerns about social housing allocation in the village and discrepancies between 'Derbyshire clauses' on older housing stock and national park criteria on newer stock; Eyam PC were suggesting there should be one set of criteria/clauses with offers made on basis of local need. Cllrs suggested this was not a significant issue in Hathersage however it was noted the numbers of social housing units in Hathersage was unknown, nor was it known how many units would be subject to the Derbyshire clause or national park criteria; Cllrs asked if Cllr O'Brien could find out.
- There were no further questions from Cllrs. Thanks were noted to Cllr O'Brien and he left the meeting.
- DCC – noted** a meeting with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton was scheduled for 21 March. Also noted funding, from DCC and from Cllr Sutton's discretionary fund, for the Hathersage warm places initiative, the luncheon club and towards purchase of Little John grave signage.
- 238/22 **Confirmation of Minutes**
Minutes of the HPC meeting of 7 February 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 239/22 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups.** Noted DCC had filled grit bins this week (queried whether *all* bins had been filled). Cllr Rodgers referenced the grit pile at the end of School Lane querying if a grit bin could be provided. Suggested HPC purchase the grit bin and ask DCC to fill it *agenda item for next RABG meeting*.
- .1 **Warm Spaces:** noted DCC funding. Confirmed provision to carry on through March. Noted solid attendance with 32 attendees in the previous week.

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- .2 **PDNPA members election: noted** information circulated about the forthcoming 2023 elections. Cllrs commented on a lack of clarity – to be considered further at the first May meeting following the local elections. Noted demands of PDNPA membership could be onerous.
- .3 **Threatened closure of Peak District visitor centres and Castleton’s Museum: to consider**, including any Parish Council response. The Chair referenced a statement by High Peak MP Robert Lorgan about finding funding to keep centres open however it was suggested this had not been agreed by the PDNPA Chief Executive – noted the final decision/outcome was awaited. Queried what PDNPA would do with the empty units – suggested they would be sub-let to businesses. **Agreed** to ask Hope Valley Parishes Forum (HVPF) if they were planning to gauge parish council concerns and liaise with PDNPA. Noted PDNPA were seeking responses within the next couple of weeks. Suggested PDNPA were aiming to move to digital visitor signposting. Following discussion, it was agreed to draft a letter outlining HPC concerns about the wholesale loss of visitor centres, querying whether all options have been investigated and referencing that closures appear to go against national park objectives ‘to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national parks’. Suggested sharing the HPC letter with Castleton PC and other Hope Valley parish councils.
- .4 **PDNPA walks with National Park Rangers: noted** details shared on this initiative.
- .5 **DCC [consultation](#) on establishing 20mph limits in Buxton and Long Eaton as part of the Green Towns initiative: to consider** any Parish Council response (response deadline 13 April). Cllrs noted the cost of the scheme – TROs; signage. Some Cllrs queried efficacy. Flagged the potential impact on parts of the A53 and A6 around Buxton. Agreed it was for the residents of Buxton and for Buxton Town Council to consider and respond; should Buxton TC approach parish councils, further consideration could be given. *Agreed to further consider this item at the April HPC meeting.*
- 240/22 **May Parish and District Council elections:** noted that, if the forthcoming elections are contested, the Parish Council may need to reschedule the 9 May HPC meeting. Noted elections publicity both on PC noticeboards and on community social media. Noted nominations open on 21 March and have to be in by the end of the day on 4 April.
- 241/22 **Annual Reviews**
- .1 **Parish Council Risk Assessments: to review.** The RFO noted the risk assessment (RA) is referenced in the signed annual governance statement (issued with the signed annual accounts). Noted confirmation needed from all Cllrs that they are satisfied RAs reflect and meet parish council needs. Some amendments and queries had been flagged – noted references to an old insurer (Came and Co) should be ‘insurer’. Queries flagged re specific areas:
- **MUGA** – RA references ‘area to be locked when not in use’ *to be amended*. Queries raised about whether inspections are undertaken, daily, of the MUGA, and of the playing field – to be raised with the Leisure Services Manager – and to be checked whether this is specifically referenced in pool management and pool staff contracts. Also flagged that, in the event of pool closure, measures should be in place for MUGA and playing field inspections and addressing any issues found. Queried whether there is signage at the playing field indicating whom to contact (Clerk; pool management) if a member of the public wants to raise a concern.
 - **AED/Defibrillator** – need for clarity on frequency of checks undertaken and delivery of staff training.
- Subject to the flagged amendments/clarifications the Risk Assessment/s were **approved**.
- .2 **Parish Council Insurance: to review.** In response to a Cllr query the RFO confirmed measures were included to allow for inflation. Noted the pool is the major insurance factor/consideration. Referencing the pool boiler breakdown, the RFO shared the insurers response that, while the boiler was under warranty, recompense to be addressed with the manufacturer. Current insurance cover and sums insured were **approved**.
- 242/22 **Parish Annual Meeting:** to consider moving the meeting to April and to invite local groups to share reports - **agreed** – noted details to be published on the HPC website and community social media.
- 243/22 **DALC subscription 2023-24: agreed** to purchase the enhanced training package.

244/22

Financial Matters:

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report – the RFO noted some errors in his original report had been flagged and that he had circulated an amended report earlier in the day. Suggested the approximate cost to HPC of the pool boiler breakdown was £15K; this did not include allocations of any costs associated with pool user refunds.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts. RFO reported that he had been investigating an alternative, cheaper, payroll bureau but would not be happy to switch without running present and prospective systems in parallel for several weeks. As current bureau's licence expired on 3 March, **agreed** to renew and investigate cheaper alternative well before next renewal date.
- .3 Accounts for payment totalling £33,155.11 including £4,476.59 VAT were **approved** for payment.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and approved signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs Bloor and Rodgers) for the April 2023 meeting, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the April 2023 meeting.
- .5 **VAT review: received** a report. Noted changes to councils' charges of VAT on sports services – noted further clarification needed. The RFO referenced two quotes from companies to undertake a review of VAT procedures for HPC, with particular regard to the relationship between HPC and KGF. **Agreed** to go with Ian Spencer and Associates (capped charges of £975). Queried whether advice should be sought on how local authorities were proceeding with regards to VAT on sports services.

Committees and Working Groups

245/22

Swimming Pool Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2023.

- .1 **Pool Boiler:** noted the new boiler was now installed and operational. The RFO reiterated insurer advice that, while the boiler was under warranty, any requests for financial redress should be put to the supplier. Noted suggestions that installation of flue parts may have contributed to the problem. *Assistant Clerk asked to review the boiler contract/warranty with regards to liability and whether the Parish Council might be able to recoup monies related to loss of income.*
- .2 **Winter season ticketholders refund:** to **agree** terms for refunds in relation to the boiler issues and low water temperatures earlier in 2023. Pool management suggestions had been shared. Cllrs flagged that the pool had not been closed at any point and that it had still been heated, if not to the previously advertised 27 degrees. Cllrs had a lengthy discussion about the basis for user refunds. It was **agreed** to post a notice at the pool about submitting claims for a refund – users to clearly outline the extent to which their use of the pool had been disrupted – claims to be submitted to the Clerk (with a response deadline) – and refund amounts to be agreed at the April HPC meeting. Agreed to share details of the related loss of pool income, with pool users.

246/22

Recreation Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2023. Flagged that more new play equipment is to be installed shortly and noted a post-installation inspection has been arranged (at an additional charge). Also confirmed that a further section of the playing field wall had been repointed. Noted tenders have been invited in relation to a survey of trees on parish lands.

247/22

Amenities Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2023.

248/22

Burial Ground Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2023. Noted the review of the burial ground rules; noted new signage is to be ordered.

249/22

Planning Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2023. The Chair referenced discussions on how PDNPA will collect car park monies. Noted railway capacity scheme-related work on the railway bridge (on Cllr Nick Williams' land). Noted a further Planning Committee meeting to be convened – to precede the 21 March RABG meeting.

250/22

Transport Committee: no further meeting had been held since January (January minutes were shared at February HPC); noted the next scheduled meeting was 28 March.

- .1 **Noted** outcomes of the recent PDNPA Transport Symposium (reports shared).
- .2 DCC Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) – no specific update was shared.
- .3 2 March HVCA Transport meeting - Cllr Hill noted he would share a report at the next meeting of the Transport Committee (28 March). Cllr Hill referenced a general lack of understanding of the work involved to persuade people onto public transport. Other Cllrs flagged significant numbers of

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passengers on buses and trains coming into the Hope Valley on the previous weekend – suggested these visitor numbers be flagged with PDNPA in relation to visitor centre closure.

- .4 Cllrs flagged a couple of items for the 28 March Transport Committee meeting – appropriate signage at the Strines turning off the A57 (in relation to cyclists); appropriate signage at Hurstclough Lane (Bamford end) re limited access (for large vehicles).
- 251/22 **HR Committee (confidential): received** minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2023. Noted items to be discussed/considered at the 25 April meeting.
- .1 **Pool staff pay - approved** HR Committee recommendations that:
- Lifeguards are paid the recently increased Real Living Wage hourly rate of £10.90 (an increase of 10.1% on the previous rate) **agreed**
 - Other pool staff roles (supervisors and teachers) receive a 6.6% increase on the hourly rate of pay (as per the 2022 pay increase of 6.6%) **agreed**
- .2 **Clerk hours: approved** an HR Committee recommendation to increase the Clerk’s weekly hours from 18.5 to 21; Clerk to monitor work capacity and flag if any further additional hours are needed.
- 252/22 **Website/IT:** agreed to pause a move to provision of individual Cllr email addresses, and a shared file system, until after the conclusion of the local elections. Cllrs suggested, with John Dalton stepping down, another individual be sought to provide IT support to Cllrs. Suggested approaching Sarah Spence, after the May elections, about provision of some IT support.
- 253/22 **Clerk’s Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the February 2023 meeting.
- 254/22 **Parish Matters:** flagged complaints about car parking on Moreland Road noting emergency services vehicles would have very restricted/no access *to add to the March Transport Committee meeting agenda.*
- Cllr James Shuttleworth referenced King’s Coronation event planning – Cllr Shuttleworth to share details of events, timings etc, discussed at a recent planning meeting.
- 255/22 **Memorial Hall: received** minutes of the January meeting to the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Noted the committee will hold its annual meeting on 20 March; noted the committee is seeking a new Chair and Secretary. Cllr Rodgers referenced a small profit made last year and a five-year plan which includes significant expenditure.
- 256/22 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the February 2023 meeting (*noted under Clerk’s Correspondence*).
- 257/22 **Date and time of next meeting – 4 April 2023, St Michael’s School** – with the annual parish meeting at 7.30pm followed by HPC.
- 258/22 Items for the April agenda had been noted (above).

Meeting ended 21.40pm; a meeting of the King George’s Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.